

Message Text

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ACTION EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W
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O R 010620Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5187
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3060

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM
USINFO ALSO FOR IEA
BANGKOK FOR HEDGES
BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS
STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS-

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER UPDATE

1. IN A VISIT YESTERDAY TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM, KHMER REPUBLIC PRESIDENT LON NOL EXPRESSED HIS "GREAT JOY" AT THE LIBERATION OF OVER 20,000 VILLAGERS WHO RECENTLY FLED COMMUNITST-CONTROLLED AREAS IN ORDER TO RESETTLE UNDER GOVERNMENT SECURITY NEAR KOMPONG THOM CITY.

2. IN AN ADDRESS TO SOME 5,000 OF THE VILLAGERS, LON NOL PRAISED THE BRAVERY AND COMPETENCE OF KHMER ARMY FORCES LED BY BRIGADIER GENERALS TEAP BEN AND EM SAN WHO PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY FOR THE VILLAGERS TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND COME TO KOMPONG THOM. HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PATRIOTIC SPIRIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF KOMPONG THOM PROVINCE FOR COOPERATING FULLY WITH THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AND ARMY TO
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BRING ABOUT THE LIBERATION OF THE VILLAGERS. THIS CO-

OPERATIVE EFFORT, HE SAID, PROVES THAT ALL KHMER RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO UNITE IN ORDER TO DEFEND CAMBODIA AND PROTECT THE BUDDHIST FAITH "AGAINST THE COMMUNIST INVADERS WHO ARE VIOLATING OUR RIGHTS AS SOVERIGN PEOPLE."

3. LON NOL EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND APPRECIATION FOR RECENT STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN SENATORS KENNEDY AND SCOTT "ENERGETICALLY CONDEMNING THE CRIMINAL AND INHUMAN ACTS OF THE ENEMY OF THE KHMER PEOPLE." THESE SENTIMENTS, HE SAID, "PROVIDE US WITH INVALUABLE MORAL SUPPORT," AND CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE FOUR YEARS OF GENEROUS ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT NIXON."

4. THE KHMER REPUBLIC PRESIDENT ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO KOMPONG THOM TO ANNOUNCE THAT SUBSTANTIAL NEW QUANTITIES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES WOULD BE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT 5,000 RIFLES WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED IN ORDER TO HELP THE LIBERATED VILLAGERS PROTECT THEMSELVES AND ASSIST IN THE LIBERATION OF STILL OTHERS WHO "STILL ARE UNDER THE TERROR IMPOSED BY THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS."

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